(b) The number of programmes produced by non-departmental persons is as under:

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Commissioned	2173	3692	3949
Royalty	626	635	96
TOTAL	2799	4327	4045

The number of programmes produced by Departmental persons is as under:

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
19502	20106	20214

(c) The amount sanctioned to programmes produced by non-departmental persons, year-wise, is given as under:

	1997-98
Commissioned	Rs. 23,83,84,160
Royalty	Rs. 5,79,39,949
	1998-99
Commissioned	Rs. 49,28,69,000
Royalty	Rs. 2,79,17,713
	1999-2000
Commissioned	Rs. 63,04,65,285
Royalty	Rs. 2,68,64,815

Introduction of FM Metro Channel of AIR, Bangalore

845. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce FM Metro Channel of AIR, Bangalore;

(b) if so, when will it be introduced;

(c) the places to be covered under FM transmission in Karnataka; and

(d) whether Government will take steps to make available the programmes both on medium wave and FM stereo to avoid people buying new sets?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The FM stereo channel at Bangalore is ready and will be commissioned shortly.

(c) 8 FM Radio stations of AIR are already functioning in Karnataka. Apart from this, FM transmitters are being set up at Mysore, Mangalore and Dharwad.

(d) As per the existing policy, whenever the MW Transmitters are replaced by FM Transmitters, programmes are broadcast simultaneously from both the transmitters for the first six months before the MW transmitter is decommissioned. It is not feasible to broadcast stereo programmes on Medium Wave.

Establishment of LPT/VLPT in Himachal Pradesh

846. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for establishment of LPT/VLPT in Himachal Pradesh during the financial year 2001-2002; and

(b) if so, the names of the places?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Six Very Low Power TV transmitters, one each at Awah Devi, Bijli Mahadev, Dalhausi, Jatingiri, Kaja and Nehri are presently under implementation in Himachal Pradesh.